

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain I of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
5. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain II of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
6. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein An isolated polynucleotide comprising a chimeric GBV-B polynucleotide encoding a virus comprising domain III of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
7. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 6, wherein the 5' NTR domain Ib of GBV-B is deleted.
8. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain IV of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
9. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain I and domain II of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain I and domain IV of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein further comprising domain II and domain IV of the 5' NTR [[is]] from a HCV 5'NTR.
- 14.-16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.
18. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[2]]6, wherein said polynucleotide is RNA.
19. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [[1]]6, further comprising at least part of a structural protein coding region of HCV.

20. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim [1]6, further comprising at least part of a non-structural protein coding region of HCV.

21. (Currently amended) A viral expression construct comprising a chimeric GBV-B polynucleotide, wherein at least a part of the 5' NTR sequence is from a HCV 5' NTR comprising domain III of the 5' NTR from a HCV 5' NTR.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, further comprising a deletion of the GBV-B 5' NTR domain Ib region.

24. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, wherein said construct is a plasmid.

25. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, wherein said construct is a virus.

26. (Original) The viral expression construct of claim 21, further defined as a construct for the expression of a chimeric GBV-B/HCV virus.

27. (Withdrawn; currently amended) A method for identifying a compound active against a viral infection comprising:

providing a virus expressed from a viral construct of claim 21 comprising a chimeric GBV-B/HCV virus;

contacting the virus with a candidate substance; and

comparing infectivity of the virus in the presence of the candidate substance with the infectivity of the virus in the absence of the candidate substance.

28.-58. (Canceled)